

I'm against the use of private collection agencies (PCAs) because, first, I don't believe that taxpayer privacy will be adequately protected. When the IRS attempted the use of PCAs once before in the 1990s, it was a dismal failure. The IRS has not had a good track record of protecting taxpayer information and the Treasury Department's performance in providing information security protections to protect data confidentiality has worsened.

Second, I am concerned that private debt collectors will not show the level of professionalism, sensitivity, and respect that taxpayers deserve. In 2005, the Federal Trade Commission received more consumer complaints about private debt collectors than any other industry.

Due to the nature of the debts that the IRS intends to transfer to PCAs, the likely result will be that these agencies will end up going after the most vulnerable taxpayers in our society. We should not allow a system to emerge where better-off taxpayers get the benefit of interacting with a professional IRS agent, while economically-disadvantaged taxpayers are relegated to the harassing tactics of private collection agencies.

Third, I am deeply concerned with the cost-effectiveness of this initiative. The IRS Commissioner, himself, testified that it would be more cost-effective for the IRS to collect these debts than to contract them out to PCAs. Initially, I am told that it will require 55 IRS personnel to oversee 75 private tax collectors. Taken as a whole, I have to wonder whether the Federal Treasury will really benefit at all from this initiative.

Finally, the IRS should not be moving ahead with this activity while Congress is still debating its merits. More than 400 Members of the House approved a bill that included a prohibition on outsourcing tax collection. The IRS should suspend this effort immediately until the Congress has debated its fate and reached a final judgment.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 565—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE UPON THE FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. KYL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs.

DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 565

Whereas on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four civilian aircraft; crashed two of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City; and crashed the third into the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C.;

Whereas the fourth hijacked plane, United Airlines flight 93, crashed in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, near the town of Shanksville, after the passengers and crew of that flight struggled with the terrorist-hijackers to take back control of the plane, ultimately preventing the flight from reaching its likely destination in Washington, DC;

Whereas the heroic actions of the rescue workers, volunteers, federal, state and local officials who responded to the attacks with courage, determination, and skill is to be commended;

Whereas thousands of innocent Americans, and civilians from many other countries, were killed and injured as a result of these attacks;

Whereas Congress declared, in the aftermath of the attacks, September 12, 2001 to be a National Day of Unity and Mourning;

Whereas there has not been a terrorist attack on the United States homeland since the terrorist attacks five years ago; but al Qaeda has perpetrated terrorist attacks throughout the world against U.S. persons, facilities, and interests, as well as U.S. allies during that time;

Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That the Senate

(1) commemorates the life of each individual who died as a result of the attacks of September 11, 2001;

(2) extends its deepest condolences to the victims of these attacks, as well as to their families, friends, and loved ones;

(3) once again condemns in the strongest possible terms the attacks, the terrorists who perpetrated them, and their sponsors;

(4) commits to support the necessary steps to interdict and defeat terrorists who plot to do harm to the American people;

(5) recommit itself and the nation to bringing to justice the perpetrators of the attacks, along with their sponsors;

(6) honors and expresses its gratitude to members of its Armed Forces, law enforcement personnel, first responders, members of intelligence community and others who have bravely and faithfully participated in the War on Terrorism since September 11, 2001;

(7) declares September 11, 2006 to be a National Day of Remembrance, in commemoration of the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001;

(8) declares that when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to each individual who died as a result of the attacks of September 11, 2001.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4924. Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4954, to improve maritime and cargo security through enhanced layered defenses, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4925. Mr. SHELBY (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4926. Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mrs. CLINTON) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4922 submitted by Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) to the bill H.R. 4954, supra.

SA 4927. Mr. STEVENS (for Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. INOUE)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4921 proposed by Mr. DEMINT to the bill H.R. 4954, supra.

SA 4928. Mr. BINGAMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4924. Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4954, to improve maritime and cargo security through enhanced layered defenses, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. —. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following: “SEC. 314. COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall establish a competitive research program within the Directorate.

“(2) DIRECTOR.—The program shall be headed by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary. The Director shall report to the Under Secretary.

“(3) DUTIES OF DIRECTOR.—In the administration of the program, the Director shall—

“(A) establish a cofunding mechanism for States with academic facilities that have not fully developed security-related science and technology to support burgeoning research efforts by the faculty or link them to established investigators;

“(B) provide for conferences, workshops, outreach, and technical assistance to researchers and institutions of higher education in States on topics related to developing science and technology expertise in areas of high interest and relevance to the Department;

“(C) monitor the efforts of States to develop programs that support the Department's mission;